Special grant to Rajasthan for potable water

†3778. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan is categorized as a worst-affected State facing the crisis of potable water;

(b) whether there is acute shortage of potable water in Rajasthan and a number of districts in the State face the problem of polluted and floride containing potable water;

(c) whether the Central Government have any scheme to give special economic grant to Rajasthan, to provide potable water to the people of Rajasthan by placing Rajasthan in the special category with regard to potable water crisis under National Water Policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), funds are released to States/UTs based on laid down criteria and the performance of the States are monitored in terms of habitations covered. So far, no categorization of States is made based on the crisis of potable water.

(b) As reported by the State Government of Rajasthan, as on 31/3/2005, there were 31,883 habitations affected with various water quality problems, of which 6992 habitations were reported to have excess fluoride levels in drinking water in rural areas.

(c) and (d) To accelerate completion of Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana to transfer surplus waters of Ravi and Beas rivers to desert and border districts of Rajasthan with a view to eliminate drought, irrigating desert areas and providing drinking water, the Twelfth Finance Commission has provided Rs. 300 crore.Also, for augmentation of water from existing sources and setting up of fluoride and salinity treatment plants in the border and desert districts, the Twelfth Finance Commission has provided Rs. 150 crore to State Government of Rajasthan.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.